

PSYCHOLOGY

Psychology
510.430.2176
psychology@mills.edu

The Psychology Department at Mills integrates scientific approaches to human behavior and its development with immediately practical issues of working with people and addressing their problems.

Students devise, in consultation with their academic advisors, study plans for the major that are the most appropriate preparation for their particular goals. Each plan includes psychology courses along with course work in other academic areas. Qualified students may cross-register at other nearby institutions for specialized courses not taught at Mills.

During their final two years, many psychology majors enroll in internships that serve as career tryouts, giving them actual experience in the field and making them better prepared for graduate school. Approximately half of Mills psychology majors go on to graduate work in psychology, counseling, or social work. Others go to law school or medical school, using their knowledge in such areas as family medicine, psychiatry, pediatrics, or family law. Those who do not continue to graduate school use their majors in a variety of careers, such as personnel work.

The department has a strong research emphasis. Students have the opportunity to carry out independent research under the guidance of a faculty member or to participate in a faculty member's own research. One measure of the department's strength in teaching research techniques is that some Mills psychology majors present their research at professional and student research conferences.

Note: Majors are expected to take History and Issues in Psychology (PSYC 192) at Mills.

Program Goals:

- Possess knowledge of contemporary psychological principles and theories.
- Have the ability to find, and to read with comprehension, research studies in the professional literature.
- Understand the value of the scientific method as a way of thinking about questions concerning the causes of (and therapeutic approaches to) behavior.
- Have the ability to apply the scientific method to questions concerning the causes of (and therapeutic approaches to) behavior.
- Have the ability to communicate effectively and responsibly in writing and interpersonal contexts.

Majors & Minors

Major

Psychology Major—BA (<https://catalog.mills.edu/undergraduate/majors-minors/psychology/psychology-ba>)

Minor

Psychology Minor (<https://catalog.mills.edu/undergraduate/majors-minors/psychology/psychology-minor>)

BA/MA

BA/MA in Infant Mental Health (<https://catalog.mills.edu/undergraduate/accelerated-degree-programs/bama-infant-mental-health>)

Faculty & Staff

Faculty

Elizabeth A. Bachen

Professor of Psychology
Program Head of Biopsychology
NSB 242, 510.430.2141, bachen@mills.edu
Professional Interests: Clinical psychology, women's health, how psychological stress affects health, psychosocial and biological mechanisms of stress and health, psychoneuroimmunology

Christie Chung

Esther Lee Mirmow Chair
Professor of Psychology
NSB 144, 510.430.2251, cchung@mills.edu
Professional Interests: Memory in old age, changes in emotional memory throughout the life span, statistical memory modeling, cognitive changes associated with Parkinson's disease

Carol George

Professor of Psychology
Department Head
Co-Director of Infant Mental Health Program
NSB 143, 510.430.3268, george@mills.edu
Professional Interests: Developmental psychology, social and emotional development, trauma and loss, attachment theory

Dean Morier

Professor of Psychology
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Professional Interests: Social psychology, personality and social behavior, social cognition, social identity, gender and sexual orientation, psychology of religion, aging anxiety, science attitudes

Erin Kinnally

Assistant Adjunct Professor
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Professional Interests: Developmental neuroscience, animal behavior, transgenerational effects of stress, epigenetics

Staff

Ellen Rush

Faculty Administrative Assistant
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Resources

- Mills Cognition Lab (<https://inside.mills.edu/academics/undergraduate/psyc/mcl.php>)
- Mills Social Psychology Lab (<https://inside.mills.edu/academics/undergraduate/psyc/spl.php>)
- Early Childhood & Family Research Lab (<https://inside.mills.edu/academics/graduate/imh/ECFResearchLab.php>)